

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE**

TRANSFER OPPORTUNITY

Psychiatric Social Worker II



RESTRICTED TO DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH EMPLOYEES

**FAMILY ADVOCACY
Prevention and Early Intervention**

The Adult System of Care (ASOC) is seeking a compassionate individual, possessing knowledge, experience, and skills with adult service methods and operations to support our efforts to engage, build and advocate for family involvement and inclusion in the ASOC programs and administration. The candidate must possess a personal commitment to supporting the needs of families with adult members experiencing mental illness for the first time. The ideal candidate will possess clinical training in the area of social work with lived experience as a mental health consumer or family member of an individual receiving mental health services.

PURPOSE:

Families are the first and most reliable recovery support resource for mentally ill adult clients. Families often witness the changes of their loved one prior to the first break. Often this first break leads to hospitalization or incarceration. Alerting families of what is happening at the earliest intervention is essential to maintaining vibrant and relevant care. The Family Advocate, Prevention and Early Intervention, strives to engage families and first break clients in the most appropriate and immediate care for the best possible outcomes toward Hope, Wellness and Recovery.

DUTIES INCLUDE:

- Responding to calls for help from families who are experiencing first break mental illness episodes in a timely and effective manner.
- Providing the advanced coordination skills necessary to help family members become effective partners in maintaining a responsive mental health delivery system.
- Establish and maintain communications with hospital and jail social workers who are the initial identifiers of first break mental illness.
- Assisting families in understanding the mental health system in terms of availability, access, limits to services, and the manner in which the hospital and

the legal system interfaces and impacts the mental health care for adults in Los Angeles County.

- Coordinating the interface of: the Office of the Public Guardian, Hospital Discharge Planners, Office of Patient Rights, Mental Health Court Liaisons, Jail Mental Health, Mental Health Urgent Care Centers, Directly Operated Clinics, Service Area Navigators, EOB/PMRT Service Area Contacts and other pertinent family inclusive systems
- Promoting community awareness of Prevention and Early Intervention as well as signs and symptoms of first break mental illness episodes by various means including
 - Helping organize and promote the yearly "NAMIWalks" efforts throughout the Department.
 - Meeting frequently and speaking regularly with various stakeholders and community groups, including: Service Area Advisory Committees, local NAMI affiliates, Los Angeles County Client Coalition, Department leadership members, law enforcement, and correctional agency staff, to promulgate the Department's family perspective and assure family concerns are heard and addressed wherever possible
- Promoting best practices at all levels of involvement of first break mental illness episodes and education with families, as well as with consumers.
- Evaluating and proposing new strategies for increasing functional capacity outcomes via early intervention models, for example Cognitive Enhancement Therapy.

If possible, the candidate should possess bilingual capability and/or multi-cultural experience in order to communicate with the growing ethnic populations in Los Angeles County.

Staff currently holding the payroll title of Psychiatric Social Worker II are encouraged to send resume, last two performance evaluations and letter of interest **no later than 5:00 PM on Thursday, February 16, 2012** to:

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